

building. For purposes of this cost comparison, costs associated with rehabilitation or new construction may include the cost of real property acquisition.

(b) *Demolition plan.* The cost of demolition of a building cannot be included in the cost of construction unless the proposed construction is in the same location as the building to be demolished or unless the demolition is inextricably linked to the design of the construction project. If the applicant believes that this cost may be included in the cost of the construction project, a demolition plan should be submitted which includes the extent and cost of existing site features to be removed, stored, or relocated.

§ 17.705 Grants for procurement of vans.

(a) *Use.* VA will grant funds to recipients to pay a portion of the cost of procuring vans to provide transportation for and support outreach to homeless veterans.

(b) *Insurance.* Recipients of grants to procure vans who are nonprofit entities must insure vans to the same extent they would insure a van bought with their own funds.

(c) *Amount.* The estimated total costs of purchasing the van may include the purchase price, sales taxes, and title and licensing fees.

§ 17.706 Matching requirements.

(a) *General.* The recipient must, from sources other than grant funds received under this part, match the funds provided by VA to cover the percentage of the total cost of the acquisition, rehabilitation, construction or procurement not funded by the grant. This matching share shall constitute at least 35 percent of the total cost.

(b) *Maintenance of effort.* State or local government funds used in the matching contribution are subject to the maintenance of effort requirements described at § 17.707(a) of this part.

§ 17.707 Limitations on use of assistance.

(a) *Maintenance of effort.* No assistance provided under this part may be used to replace Federal, State or local

funds previously used, or designated for use, to assist homeless veterans.

(b) *Primarily religious organizations.* VA will provide assistance to a recipient that is a primarily religious organization if the organization agrees to provide housing and supportive services in a manner that is free from religious influences and the organization complies with the following principles:

(1) It will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment on the basis of religion and will not limit employment or give preference in employment to persons on the basis of religion;

(2) It will not discriminate against any person applying for housing or supportive services on the basis of religion and will not limit such housing or services or give preference to persons on the basis of religion;

(3) It will provide no religious instruction or counseling, conduct no religious worship or services, engage in no religious proselytizing, and exert no other religious influence in the provision of housing and supportive services.

§ 17.708 Notice of fund availability (NOFA).

When funds are made available for assistance, VA will publish a notice of fund availability in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The notice will:

(a) Give the location for obtaining application packages, which will provide specific application requirements and guidance;

(b) Specify the date, time, and place for submitting completed applications; and

(c) State the amount and status of funding available under the notice.

§ 17.709 Grant award process.

General. The grant award process for assistance under this part consists of the following:

(1) Reviewing applications for eligibility for assistance;

(2) Rating applications (see § 17.711 of this part);

(3) Selecting applications conditionally (see § 17.712 of this part);

(4) Obtaining additional information and awarding grants (see § 17.713 of this part).